



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. AMS-SC-19-0013; SC19-981-2]

**Almonds Grown in California; Notice of Request for
Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved
Information Collection**

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for Almonds Grown in California, Marketing Order No. 981.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice. Comments must be sent to the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Fax: (202) 720-8938; or Internet: www.regulations.gov. Comments should reference the

docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours, or can be viewed at: www.regulations.gov. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be included in the record and will be made available to the public. Please be advised that the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be made available to the public on the internet at the address provided above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Hatch,
Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops
Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP
0237, Room 1406-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-0237;
Telephone: (202) 720-6862, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or E-mail:
andrew.hatch@usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Richard Lower, Assistant to the Director, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0237, Room 1406-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-0237; Telephone (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-

8938; or E-mail: Richard.lower@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Almonds Grown in California, Marketing Order
No. 981.

OMB Number: 0581-0242.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2019.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a
currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The information collection requirements
in this request are essential to carry out the intent of
the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act),
as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), to provide the respondents
the type of service they request, and to administer the
California almond marketing order (7 CFR part 981), which
has been operating since 1950.

The marketing order and its rules and regulations
authorize the Almond Board of California (Board), the
agency responsible for local administration of the
marketing order, to require handlers and other certain
entities to submit information.

Since September 2007, the Board has been operating a
mandatory program under the marketing order to help

reduce the potential for Salmonella in almonds. The Board had developed forms as a means for handlers to file required information with the Board relating to the treatment of almonds. Almond handlers are required to submit annual treatment plans to the Board and inspection agency regarding how they plan to treat their almonds in compliance with the program.

Entities interested in being almond process authorities that validate technologies are required to submit an application to the Board on ABC Form No. 51, "Application for Process Authority for Almonds." Manufacturers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico interested in being approved to accept untreated almonds, provided they agree to treat the almonds themselves under the Board's Direct Verifiable (DV) program, are required to submit an application to the Board on ABC Form No. 52, "Application for Direct Verifiable (DV) Program for Further Processing of Untreated Almonds." Entities interested in being approved DV user auditors are required to apply to the Board on ABC Form No. 53, "Application for Direct Verifiable (DV) Program Auditors." To ensure compliance with the mandatory

program, entities are required to use either an on-site or audit-based verification program and annually submit a treatment plan to the Board on ABC Form No. 54, "Handler Treatment Plan."

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of USDA, including AMS, Specialty Crops Program's regional and headquarters' staff, and authorized employees and agents of the Board. Authorized Board employees, agents, and the industry are the primary users of the information, and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.5 hours per response.

Respondents: Almond handlers; persons or organizations that would like to qualify to be Board-approved process authorities that validate treatments and technologies; manufacturers who would like to qualify to participate in the Board's DV program; and entities that would like to qualify as auditors under the DV program.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 175.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.00.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,200
hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 15, 2019.

Bruce Summers,
Administrator,
Agricultural Marketing Service.

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